



James Lavern "Jim" O'Brien

August 29, 1925 - September 16, 2017

James Lavern O'Brien (Jim) 92 of Toledo, Ohio passed away Saturday, September 16, 2017. Jim was born to Rose Anna and Ralph O'Brien from Willard, Ohio on August 29th, 1925. His family relocated to East Toledo at the age of four. Jim attended East Side Central and Waite High School.

At eighteen years of age, he joined the Army and served in WWII. Jim was assigned to the 661st Tank Destroyers as a driver, gunner and commander. He fought courageously in Normandy, France, Belgium (the Battle of the Bulge). Germany was among the first to meet the Russians at the Polish border to end WWII in Europe.

After serving in the war, Jim was employed by Gallagher Cleaners where his late wife, Margaret (Milano) O'Brien, former owner of Margaret O'Brien Modeling Agency, worked as well. During the streetcar strike, Jim was asked to pick Margaret up for work one day. Shortly after, Jim asked her out for a date and the rest was history. James and Margaret were later married on April 10, 1948. Together, they lead a happy and fulfilling life. Unfortunately, Margaret passed away on December 6, 2015 after 67 years of marriage. She truly was the love of his life.

Jim was also employed for 30 years as a pattern maker for LOF (Libbey Owens Ford).

Jim enjoyed spending time with family, bowling, playing cards, and periodically taking trips up to the Detroit casino. Jim also enjoyed being a shiner. He was a 32nd degree Mason and member of the Zenobia Shine Jeepster unit.

James was fortunate to have and survived by two loving and caring sons, James O'Brien and Kelly Thomas O'Brien (Leslie). Jim also has seven loving grandchildren Jimmy (Adrienne), Mike (Sarah), Danny (Karen), Kelly (Danielle), Chalie, Spencer, and Maggie.

Visitation will be held at Ansberg-West Funeral Home, 3000 West Sylvania, Avenue on Monday, September 18 from 4:00-8:00pm. A funeral service will be held to celebrate James's life Tuesday, September 19 beginning at 11:00 A.M. at the funeral home and will be followed by a graveside service at Toledo Memorial Park Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Caleb International Ministeries 2580 Blossom Lane, New Castle, Pennsylvania, 16105. To send his family online condolences, please visit www.ansbberg-west.com.

Tribute Wall



“ Jim and Kelly, I always thought of your dad as a very special friend and role model while growing up. I am sorry for your loss. You're mom and dad are now together in heaven. We had a lot of great times, back in the day. Sincerely, Dick

Richard Johnson - September 20, 2017 at 02:07 PM



“ James Lavern "Jim" O'Brien

September 18, 2017 at 11:51 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Rebecca Ford - September 18, 2017 at 08:03 AM

“ This message is to Jim and Kelly. I am so sorry for the passing of your father. I know he was important to you and his life has touched many including me. He was a good and honest man who loved his family and was dedicated to them.

Genuinely good men are hard to find. Your dad was a diamond in the ruff.

The following is a favorite of mine and I dedicate this posting to you in honor of your father.

Train of Life

At birth, we boarded the train of life and met our parents, and we believed that they would always travel by our side. However, at some station, our parents would step down from the train, leaving us on life's journey alone.

As time goes by, some significant people will board the train: siblings, other children, friends, and even the love of our life.

Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we won't realize that they vacated their seats! This train ride has been a mixture of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells.

A successful journey consists of having a good relationship with all passengers, requiring that we give the best of ourselves. The mystery that prevails is that we do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. Thus, we must try to travel along the track of life in the best possible way -- loving, forgiving, giving, and sharing.

When the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty -- we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who continue to travel on the train of life.

Let's remember to thank our Creator for giving us life to participate in this journey.

I close by thanking you for being one of the passengers on my train!

I thank Jim O'Brien for being on my train and an important person in my life.

Rick Herrmann - September 16, 2017 at 05:57 PM